

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph on the first page before the Field of the Invention:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

A₁ This application claims the benefit of U.S. provisional patent application Serial No. 60/199,714, filed April 26, 2000, the entire disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 19 with the following amended paragraph:

A₂ FIGS. 1-5, depict various views of the exemplary low-profile multiple port implantable access device 10 of the present invention. The access device 10 generally comprises a housing member 25 including circular openings 5a, 5b and 5c on the upper side of the housing and base 11 on the bottom of the housing. The housing 25 is constructed from a biocompatible non-metallic material, such as plastic, and is moderately flexible as to allow for improved anatomical placement over curved or irregular sections of the fascia musculature. Flexibility, in this sense, is not easily definable since many factors, such as patient anatomical profile data, patient comfort, doctor preference, etc., will go in to determining how flexible the housing should be. Thus, the present invention recognizes that the flexibility spectrum is rather large, and may be determined on a patient-by-patient basis, or may comprise flexibility standards based, on, for example, patient profile data, average patient profile data, etc., and the present invention is intended to cover all such alternatives. The housing 25 and ports 3a, 3b and 3c have circular

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opening 5a, 5b and 5c, defining fluid chambers 15a, 15b and 15c. The chambers are sealed by the housing 25, and self-sealing septum members 20a, 20b and 20c, arranged in the circular openings. Preferably the septum is constructed of silicone or similar elastomeric material, or rubber. For hemodialysis applications, the septum can have a durometer ranging from 30-55 on the Shore A scale, since it is understood that the septum must withstand several large-diameter insertions while still maintaining fully sealed integrity.
